GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1558
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007
AMENDMENT IN INDIAN FOREST ACT,1927
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to replace/amend the Indian Forest Act of 1927;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has consulted the State Governments in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the States thereto;

(e) the details of the powers delegated to various officials/agencies in the new IFA; and

(f) the time by which the Government is likely to amend the Act?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a)& (b) The Government of India is considering amendment to Indian Forest Act, 1927 to meet the objectives of National Forest Policy, 1988 in a holistic manner for the maintenance of environmental stability through preservation and restoration of ecological balance, meeting requirement of fuel wood, fodder, minor forest produce and small timber to rural and tribal population with their involvement.

(c)&(d) The State/UT Governments were consulted in the past and their views were incorporated. Meanwhile a national level legislation named as the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 was enacted which has bearing on Indian Forest Act, 1927. Further examination of Indian Forest Act, 1927 with respect to provisions in the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 is needed for the smooth implementation of the said Act and conservation of forests. Since, implementation of forestry activities are with State/UT Governments, a consultation with them will be done in this regard.

(e) The proposed provisions are kept to achieve the mandate of National Forest Policy, 1988 which are mainly providing confiscation powers to forest officers, enhancing penalties, special provision to involve people in the conservation and management of forests and indemnity to forest officer against arrest on public duty.

(f) Since different Central Ministries and State/UT Governments are involved in the consultation, it may not be possible to indicate the time frame.